Government of India has invited bids from foreign and Indian private companies in 72 blocks - 39 offshore and 3 onshore - under the Fourth Round of bidding. The last date for receipt of bids is 29.2.1992.

(c) (i) In 1980, 32 blocks - 17 offshore and 15 onshore - were offered under first Round of bidding. One Production Sharing Contract with M/s. Chevron of USA was signed. No oil was discovered.

(i) In 1982, 50 Blocks, 42 offshore and 8 onshore blocks were offered under Second Round of bidding. But no Production Sharing Contract was signed.

(iii) In 1986, 27 offshore blocks were offered under Thrid Round of bids. Production Sharing Contracts for nine blocks were signed with five foreign oil companies from USA. Netherlands, Dubai and Australia. No hydrocarbons have been didscovered.

Water Resources Projects of Global Infrastructure fund

3483. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which India propose to participate in the Water Resources projects of Global Infrastructure fund;

(b) the details of benefits likely it be derived therefrom; and

(c) the manner in which India propose to raise funds for this participation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). India propose to participate in Kosi and Tipaimukh high dam water resources projects under Global Infrastructure Fund. Nepal and India will benefit from Kosi project and India and Bangladesh from Tipaimukh Project. The Manner of funding for the projects has not been decided.

Coal deposits

3484. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has proven reserves of Prime coking coal;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity thereof;

(c) the specific steps taken so far to make use of this large deposit of coking coal; and

(d) the quantum of such coal exploite

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) and (b). As on 1.1.91, Geological Survey of India (GSI) have estimated a total of 23,331.72 million tonnes of coking coal reserves up-to a depth of 600 meters and in seams having thickness up-to 0.5 meters. The category-wise details of the coal reserves are given as under :-

(in million tonnes)

		Proved	*Indicated*	*Inferred*	*Total*
i)	Prime Coking	3713.00	326.00	-	4039.00
ii)	Medium Coking	8889.37	8327.99	801.50	18018.86
iii)	Semi-Coking	343.61	614.93	315.32	1273.86
	Total	12,945.98	9,268.92	1,116.82	23,331.72

(c) and (d). The steps taken to increase to the production of Coking coal are as under:-

i) Improvement of production and productivity of existing mines;

ii) Improvement in the Performance of coal washeries;

iii) Close monitoring of on-going projcets;

iv) Increasing the availability of metallurgical variety of coking coal by washing some of the coking coals which are not being washed at present.

The Production of coking coal during the year 89-90 and 90-91 was 44.43 million tonnes and 44.26 million tonnes. Of these, the production of metallurgical grade coal by Coal India ltd., was 20.10 million tonnes and 19.89 million tonnes during the year 89-90 and 90-91 respectively.

Inter-State Water Disputes

3485. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be please to state:

(a) the details of inter-State water disputes pending settlement;

(b the steps taken or proposed to be taken to resolve those disputes; and

(c) whether there are regional imbalances in sharing of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Under the provisions of the inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes, namely, sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has given its Report in January, 1987;; and Government of India and party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its report. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an order on 25.6.1991 granting interim relief to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. As regards the proposal from Madhya pradesh for consideration of the questions associated with Mahi-Bajajsagar under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, a preliminary inter-State meeting was held on February 6, 1991.

In addition, there are some inter-State issues pertaining to matters such as interpretation of earlier agreements and sharing of surplus waters viz. sharing of Yamuna water (up to Okhla), interpretation of Bansagar Agreement on Sone waters, interpretation of Mahi waters Agreement between Rajasthan and Gujarat. For amicable settlement of inter-State issues in water resources between the States, a Standing Committee of the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990. The standing Committee held one meeting in September, 1990 to resolve issues concected with sharing of Yamuna waters (upto Okhla).

(c) Due to variability of rainfall over the Indian subcontinent, the pattern of flow in different rivers is variable. The sharing of water between the States of Inter-State river basin is normally achieved through mutual understanding/agreements. For alliviating the difficulties of water short areas, the Centre has evolved a national perspective of water resources development; comprising of two components, namely Peninsular river development component and Himalayan river development component. To firm up these proposals, Government of India in 1982, set up National Water Development Agency.